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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of:

Masaki WATANABE

Serial No. 09/174,551

Filed: October 19, 1998



Attorney Docket No. 043034/0135

Group Art Unit: 2756

Examiner: Not yet assigned

For: PRINT DATA CONTROL SYSTEM

COMBINED CERTIFICATION AND
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)

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MAY 05 2000

Group 2700

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO-1449 is a listing of documents known to Applicants in order to comply with Applicants' duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.56. A copy of each listed document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.97-1.98.

The submission of any documents herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such documents constitute prior art against the claims of the present application or that such documents are considered material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b). Applicant does not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a prima facie prior art reference against the claims of the present application.

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TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE AND FEE

The listed documents are being submitted in compliance with 37 C.F. R. §1.97(b), before the mailing of the first Office action on the merits. However, if the first Office action has crossed in the mail with this Information Disclosure Statement, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned hereby certifies in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1) that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three (3) months prior to the filing of this Statement.

RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT

The foregoing documents came to Applicant's attention during a search of a corresponding Japanese patent application. English language translations are not provided as they are not readily available; however abstracts have been provided herewith. The absence of an English language translation does not relieve the PTO from its duty to consider the submitted documents (37 CFR §1.98 and M.P.E.P. § 609).

Documents A1 – A2 were listed as being relevant in a Japanese Office Action of the corresponding Japanese patent application dated February 8, 2000.

Document A1 relates to a device and method for processing printing. The Japanese Office Action asserts that Document A1 describes a design element in which drawing control of segmented print data is apportioned between a server and a client and describes performing synchronized output to a printer. The Japanese Office Action also asserts that Paragraph (0038) is relevant.

Document A2 relates to a printing control method for parallel printers in an information processing system. No detailed comments concerning the relevance of

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Document A2 were provided in the Japanese Office Action because it was cited as Prior Art Literature and not used as a basis for a rejection.

Applicant respectfully requests that the listed documents be considered by the Examiner and formally be made of record in the present application and that an initialled copy of Form PTO-1449 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

Respectfully submitted,

May 3, 2000
Date

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